(b) if so, the Government's response to this demand; indicating the estimated number of dwelling units required in urban areas to provide a dwelling unit each family without an abode; and

(c) the estimated number of persons without any abode in urban areas at the beginning of the eighth five year plan and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government is committed to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to adequate standard of living through a number of concrete measures outlined in the National Housing Policy.

Estimates based on 1991 Census data reveal a housing shortage of 8.23 million dwelling units as of 1.3.1991 in urban areas. It is estimated that the shortage is to the tune of 7.71 million units as of 1.3.1996. It is further estimated that about 16.90 million units would be requied to be constructed to meet the entire housing shortage by the year 2002.

Indian Rare Earths

143. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States where the Indian Rare Earth (IRE) has been operating its plants alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the production of these plants during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the capacity utilisation of these plants has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Indian Rare Earths Limited has plants at Manvalakurichi in Tamil Nadu, Chavara and Alwaye in Kerala and Chatrapur in Orissa.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Full capacity utilisation is being achieved in all the plants, except in the Mineral Separation and Synthetic Rutile Plants at Chatrapur in Orissa. It has not been possible to achieve the designed capacity utilisation in the Synthetic Rutile Plant at Chatrapur tor technological reasons. Production from the Mineral seperation Plant at Chatrapur is being curtailed because of the failure of the Synthetic Rutile Plant and the low marketability of the poor grade of the mineral at Chatrapur. The processing of monazite for the year 1995-96 had to be reduced in the Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye due to problems related to storage of Thorium Concentrates.

Production and Capacity Utilisation of main products of various plants of Indian Rare Earths Limited.

Year	Production	Rated Capacity (MT)	Actual Production (MT)	Capacity Utilisation %
1	2	3	4	5
Mineral Separation Plant, Chavara				
1993-94	Ilmenite	78000	140194	180
1994-95	Ilmenite	78000	136266	175
1995-96	Ilmenite	78000	113098	145
Mineral Separation Plant, Manavalakurichi				
1993-94	Ilmenite	64400	67283	104
1994-95	Ilmenite	64400	68284	106
1995-96	Ilmenite	64400	70501	109
Mineral Separation Plant, (OSCOM) Chatrapur				
1993-94	Ilmenite	220000	51031	23
1994-95	Ilmenite	220000	73522	33
1995-96	Ilmenite	220000	102715	47

1	2	3	4	5
SYnthetic Rutile Plant, (OSCOM) Chatrapur				
1993-94	Syn.Rutile	100000	2518	3
1994-95	Syn.Rutile	100000	5010	5
1995-96	Syn.Rutile	100000	6318	6
Rare Earths Plant, Alwaye				
1993-94	Monazite Processing	4200	3716	88
1994-95	-do-	4200	3932	94
1995-96	-do-	4200	3228	77

Note : Capacity of the plant is fixed with reference to Ilmenite Synthetic Rutile, Monazite Processing as the case may be.

Recruitment to Group-A Services

144. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recruitment to many group-A organised services is being done through Civil Services Examination and Combined Engineering Services Examination, conducted by UPSC and their seniority is maintained throughout their service;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the guidelines proposed to be set up to maintain the seniority among group-A organised services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). At present recruitment to specified Group 'A' Organised Services is being done through Civil Services Examination and Combined Engineering Services Examination conducted by UPSC. Depending upon their position in the merit list and the option exercised by them, selected candidates are allocated to various Group 'A' Organised Services. However, seniority of the candidates selected is not always maintained through out their service as per the merit position at the time of initial recruitment. This is because the service rules of various organised services contain a provision relating to maintenance of the seniority of officers belonging to that service. Normally, such provision is to determine their seniority in accordance with the general instructions on the subject issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT). According to the general instructions Issued by DOPT, seniority of a direct recruit to a post is determined by the order of merit indicated at the time of his initial appointment and his seniority is re-fixed on promotion in the order in which he is recommended for such promotion by Departmental Promotion Committee. Seniority of an officer allocated to a particular Group 'A' service is determined in a particular post with reference to other officers holding the same post in the same service and it is neither necessary nor possible to maintain his seniority with reference to officers in various other services as per their merit position in the Civil Services Examination/Combined Engineering Services Examination at the time of their initial recruitment as promotional avenues are available within each organised service and officers of each organised service are governed by the service rules applicable to the organised service to which they belong.

Urban Development Projects of Bihar

145. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Urban Development Projects of Bihar pending with the Union Government for the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Urban Development Projects in towns and cities having population upto 5 lacs are supported under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). Under IDSMT, no Urban Development Projects of Bihar which conform to IDSMT guidelines are pending with Government of India, for the past three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Crude Oil Refineries

146. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted licences to some Public Sector Oil Companies to set up crude oil refineries in the country;